

Today's News - Wednesday, November 27, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are taking a Thanksgiving Day break for the next few days to meditate on all the great people and good things we are thankful for. We'll be back Monday, December 2.

- Goodyear reports (and we're glad to hear) Detroit's Heidelberg Project "vows to rise from the ashes" of a string of arson fires: "there has been an outpouring of support from around the world, and the number of people coming to visit has tripled" (and a campaign launches to fund solar-powered streetlights).
- Florida warns that the eds-and-meds trend "will not be, by themselves, the ticket to economic growth" for a lot of metro areas (in fact, some will lose).
- Einsweiler lays out the challenges in rewriting a comprehensive zoning code for a city "as physically and demographically diverse as Los Angeles."
- Lubell cheers Gehry's "grand re-entry" to L.A.'s Grand Avenue project: it "could be the long-delayed plan's saving grace"; the towers would be "more straightforward. That's the voice of experience, and the voice of economics."
- Wainwright wanders a new Olympic legacy school and likes (most) of what he sees: its "heroic aura appears to be rubbing off on the students" - but "will it deliver the promised community benefits?"
- Mecanoo tapped to design the Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre, "aimed at attracting 'a new kind of visitor' to Oldham."
- Medina takes an interesting perspective on all the brouhaha brewing around Hadid's Qatar stadium design: it's "just the latest in on-going discussions about the role of visualization in architecture...the building form was particularly overwrought and as such, bound to turn heads and elicit commentary" (lots of links to that commentary; comments sections worth a look, too).
- Perhaps we're feeling a bit overwrought about all the blowback re: Kanye West's Harvard GSD adventure, but we think it's worth three stories (at least): the AASU co-president calls much of the "mockery" racist.
- Cooke calls for Kanye to "keep talking: I am tripping over myself with fear and excitement at the prospect of having such a powerful mouthpiece for a generation of black architects and designers."
- Capps minces no words as well: architecture schools and design firms "should be doing their damnedest to book Yeezy. If he only ever talks about the forces keeping minorities from helping to design the cities in which they live, he'll still be doing the industry a service."
- The Sustainable Sites Initiative certifies three new projects that includes SITE's first four-star landscape (great presentations).
- Two we couldn't resist (tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day, after all): Eyeful of Macy's Thanksgiving Parade "extremely creepy" balloons from the 1930s - mostly "weird animals and dead-eyed people" (a must-see!!!) + Murg says "look no further for your Thanksgiving dinner soundtrack, design fans. The globe-trotting bundle of hot-pink charisma has added electro-pop music composer to his resume."
- Weekend diversions:
- Rajagopal cheers "Venetian Glass by Carlo Scarpa: The Venini Company, 1932-1947" at the Met Museum in Manhattan: "Every single piece of glass on display is breathtaking" (with miles of pix that prove it!).
- Brussat balks at photographer Mottalini's celebration of "Brutalist ruin porn" documenting doomed homes by Paul Rudolph: "Now he has made a book and a gallery show out of it - they make great ruins - and the sooner the rubble is disposed of the better."
- Chaban cheers two new monographs that document Gwathmey Siegel & Associates' impact on the NYC skyline.
- Welton welcomes a new tome documenting Resolution: 4 Architecture's adventures in prefab houses.

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After a String of Fires, Detroit's Heidelberg Project Vows to Rise From the Ashes: ...has remained a central symbol of the city's indefatigable creativity and ingenuity...the reflection of a city that has itself been consigned to the trash heap of history more than once...there has been an outpouring of support from around the world, and the number of people coming to visit has tripled... By Sarah Goodyear -- Tyree Guyton [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Where 'Eds and Meds' Industries Could Become a Liability: If U.S. health care and education starts to cluster, some metro areas will lose..."these industries are at the end of their growth cycle"...Governments at all levels need to wake up to the fact that meds and eds will not be, by themselves, the ticket to economic growth. By Richard Florida- The Atlantic Cities

The Challenges of Re:Coding L.A.: A comprehensive zoning rewrite is a complex undertaking for any city. But for one that's seeking to evolve its land use and transportation patterns, and is as physically and demographically diverse as Los Angeles, a unique set of challenges has emerged. By Lee D. Einsweiler/Code Studio [images]- PLANetizen

Grand Re-Entry: Frank Gehry returns to Los Angeles' massive Grand Avenue Project; could be long-delayed plan's saving grace...towers would be "more straightforward," and would no longer contain undulating glass curtain walls. "That's the voice of experience, and the voice of economics" ... By Sam Lubell [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Chobham Academy: the school with an Olympic playground: The Olympic legacy school will have swimming lessons in the aquatics centre and sports day in the stadium. But will it deliver the promised community benefits? ...it certainly has its work cut out...The whole ensemble exudes an engineered, industrious feel. This is a place to get things done, and look smart while you're doing it...heroic aura appears to be rubbing off on the students. By Oliver Wainwright -- Allford Hall Monaghan Morris/AHMM; Lynn Kinnear/KLA [images]- Guardian (UK)

Library of Birmingham architects to create Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre: Mecanoo appointed in "cultural gateway"...aimed at attracting "a new kind of visitor" to Oldham... [images]- Culture24 (UK)

Zaha Hadid Defends Questionable Design: ...Al Wakrah stadium in Qatar...just the latest in on-going discussions about the role of visualization in architecture...The design, and not the visuals themselves, spurred the lewd, if not outrageous comparisons...the "sensuality" of the building form was particularly overwrought and as such, bound to turn heads and elicit commentary. By Samuel Medina -- Neoscape; AECOM [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Mockery of Kanye West's design ambition is "racist" says African-American activist: "There's a long history in the United States of making fun of black

people that actually make it," said Héctor Tarrido-Picart, co-president of the African American Student Union (AASU) at Harvard Graduate School of Design.- Dezeen

Keep Talking Kanye: An Architect's Defense of Kanye West: I am tripping over myself with fear and excitement at the prospect of having such a powerful mouthpiece for a generation of black architects and designers who share his frustration and connect with his message. Why? Because when Kanye West talks, people listen. By Sekou Cooke/sekou cooke STUDIO- ArchDaily

Architecture Could Use Some Help From Kanye West: Architecture schools everywhere should be doing their damnedest to book Yeezy...Design firms, too...If he only ever talks about the forces keeping minorities from helping to design the cities in which they live, he'll still be doing the industry a service. But the way he talks about architecture—and the way he works, as an inveterate collaborator—is reason for architecture firms to solicit more specific input from West himself. By Kriston Capps - Slate

SITES Certifies First Four-star Landscape: The Sustainable Sites Initiative announced three new projects have achieved certification under the nation's most comprehensive rating system for sustainable landscapes....Phipps' Center for Sustainable Landscapes, Pittsburgh; Washington Canal Park, Washington, D.C.; Shoemaker Green, Philadelphia... -- The Design Alliance; Andropogon Associates; OLIN; STUDIOS Architecture [link to images, info]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Balloons Used to Be Extremely Creepy: Eighty years ago, the balloons were instead weird animals and dead-eyed people. [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Karim Rashid Sings! Look no further for your Thanksgiving dinner soundtrack, design fans...The globe-trotting bundle of hot-pink charisma has added electro-pop music composer to his resume with "Change the World"... By Stephanie Murg- UniBeige

Mr. Glass: Thought Carlo Scarpa was all about marble and concrete? A new review of the architect-designer's glassware begs to differ..."Venetian Glass by Carlo Scarpa: The Venini Company, 1932-1947" [at the Metropolitan Museum of Art] showcases some 300 pieces...Every single piece of glass on display is breathtaking...Every technique gets its own vitrine, designed by Annabelle Seldorf. By Avinash Rajagopal [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Brutalist "ruin porn": Celebrated by some, at least, and certainly by the photographer Chris Mottalini, who decided he had to snap as many doomed homes by Paul Rudolph as he could. Now he has made a book and a gallery show out of it...they make great ruins - and the sooner the rubble is disposed of the better. By David Brussat [link to images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Charles Gwathmey and Robert Siegel's bold vision for the city is celebrated in two new books: One of the first 'starchitecture' firms had a dramatic impact on NYC skyline...Gwathmey Siegel & Associates was, and is, one of the city's most successful and influential architecture firms of the past half-century. To see its indelible impact...look no further than a pair of new monographs... "Gwathmey Siegel 3: 2002-2012" and "400 Fifth Avenue" By Matt Chaban [images]- NY Daily News

Modern Modular: Lean and Green: After years of transforming New York City lofts and apartments into modern spaces, Resolution 4 Architecture turned its attention to modular design...The homes' cost per square foot ranges from about \$250-\$350, with many - documented in their new book..."Modern Modular: The Prefab Houses of Resolution: 4 Architecture" by Joseph Tanney, Robert Luntz, Allison Arieff. By J. Michael Welton [images]- Huffington Post

It is always Friday afternoon in Dealey Plaza: An urban setting seared into the national consciousness. By Michael J. Crosbie- ArchNewsNow

-- Asymptote Architecture: ARC River Culture Pavilion, Daegu, South Korea
-- Dominique Perrault: his place-making effort sprouts from sets of actions that indicate links between conceptual thinking and material manipulation...
-- Hotels: The NoMad, New York City -- Schickel & Ditmars (1903); Jacques Garcia; Stonehill & Taylor
-- Alberto Campo Baeza: Offices for the Castilla León Government in Zamora, Castilla y León, Spain

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